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2967

MEMORANDUM

December 5, 1974

TO: BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

FROM: Robert T. Kenney, Director

SUBJECT: Authorization to Petition the Zoning Commission for an
Amendment to the Boston Zoning Code Which Would Allow
Additional Types of Signs in Residential Districts.

Boston 200 has designed historic and scenic markers which will be roughly two square feet in area and which have been reviewed and approved by the Urban Design division and by other groups such as the Back Bay Architectural Commission and the Beacon Hill Historic Commission. Some of the markers will be located in residential districts; others will be in business or industrial districts, but could conflict with the total signage regulations.

This problem reminded the staff that the sign regulations are silent on other types of signs, such as street signs, political posters, transit signs, etc. The attached amendment would correct this deficiency. In making the listed signs allowed in residential districts, they would be allowed in all districts.

Recommend approval.

VOTED: That the Boston Redevelopment Authority hereby authorizes the Advisor to the Zoning Commission to petition the Commission for the attached proposed text amendment which would allow additional types of signs in residential districts, and thus in all districts.

TO THE ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BOSTON:

The Advisor to the Zoning Commission hereby petitions to amend the text of the Boston Zoning Code, as established under Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956 as amended, as follows:

1. By inserting, at the end of Section 11-1, respecting signs allowed in residential districts, following item (f), the following items:

(g) Official public notices and notices posted by public officers in performance of their duties.

(h) Government signs for the control of traffic and other regulatory purposes, street signs, danger signs; railroad crossing signs, signs indicating transit stops or entrances to transit or railroad stations; and signs of public service companies indicating danger or aids to service and safety.

(i) Temporary display posters, without independent structural support, in connection with political campaigns and with non-commercial civic, health, safety and welfare campaigns, provided that such posters are removed within 30 days following the conclusion of such campaign; temporary displays of a patriotic, charitable or civic nature.

(j) Flags, emblems and insignia of any nation or political subdivision.

(k) Historical or scenic markers placed by a recognized historical agency.

2. By striking out, in Section 11-2, respecting signs in nonresidential districts, the introduction to the schedule at the bottom of page 107 of the 1973 printing of the Code, and inserting in place thereof the following introduction:

The total area⁽¹⁾ in square feet of all permanent signs on a sign frontage, except for signs on windows above the first floor, free standing signs, directional signs and public purpose signs listed in items (g) through (k) inclusive of Section 11-1, shall not exceed:

